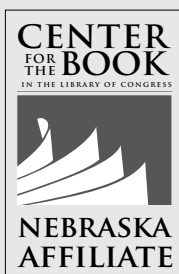


Join Us to Celebrate Nebraska Books

Schedule of Events

- 1:30 p.m.
 Nebraska Center for the
 Book Annual Meeting
-
- 2:30 p.m.
 Welcome to the Celebration
 of Nebraska Books
-
- 2:45 p.m.
 2016 One Book One
 Nebraska Presentation
 Celebrating *The Meaning
 of Names*, by Karen Gettert
 Shoemaker
-
- 3:30 p.m.
 2016 Jane Geske Award
 Presentation
-
- 3:45 p.m.
 2016 Mildred Bennett
 Award Presentation
-
- 4:00 p.m.
 2016 Nebraska Book Awards
 Presentation and Readings
 by Winning Authors
-
- 5:30 p.m.
 2017 One Book One
 Nebraska Announcement,
 Awards Reception and Book
 Signing
-
- 6:30 p.m.
 Closing




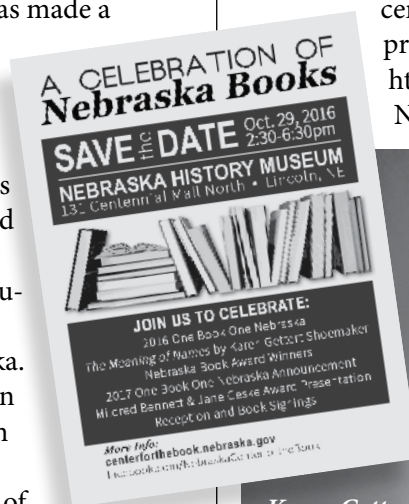
What could be more fun than spending an afternoon with fans of Nebraska literature and literacy? Join us to hear Nebraska authors and learn about Nebraska stories at the **Celebration of Nebraska Books, October 29** at the Nebraska History Museum in downtown Lincoln. This event, free and open to the public, will feature the 2016 One Book One Nebraska book selection, honor winners of the 2016 Jane Geske, Mildred Bennett, and Nebraska Book Awards, and announce the 2017 One Book One Nebraska selection.

The 2016 Nebraska Book Awards honor authors and publishers of books with a Nebraska connection published in 2015. Featured winning authors will read from their work and sign copies of their books. The Mildred Bennett Award recognizes an **individual** who has made a significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska, reminding us of the literary and intellectual heritage that enriches our lives and molds our world. The Jane Geske Award is presented to a Nebraska **organization** for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. It commemorates Geske's passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska.

This year the Celebration marks the twelfth year of One Book One Nebraska (see <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2016/index.aspx>)—selecting and promoting a book for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. *The Meaning of Names* (Red Hen Press, 2014) by Karen Gettert Shoemaker is the

2016 One Book One Nebraska selection. A presentation by Shoemaker about this Nebraska-set novel with a World War I backdrop will keynote the Celebration.

The **Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting** will be held just prior to the Celebration of Nebraska Books. An Awards Reception honoring the winning authors, book signings, and announcement of the 2017 One Book One Nebraska book choice will conclude the festivities. The 2016 Celebration of Nebraska Books is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB), Nebraska Library Commission, and the Nebraska State Historical Society Nebraska History Museum—with Humanities Nebraska supporting the One Book One Nebraska presentation. For more information see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>. 



**Karen Gettert
 Shoemaker
 shares One Book
 One Nebraska
 bookmarks with
 the audience at
 the Horse Hospital
 Arts Venue in
 London, England.**



How Can We Encourage Lifelong Readers?

*Guest Editorial by
Lois Todd-Meyer,
NCB Treasurer*

Nebraska Center for the Book's purpose is to bring together anyone who values the richness that books bring to our lives in an effort to "build the community of the book." One of the programs it supports, Letters About Literature, provides a voice for our young people to contribute to the conversation about how books can change and influence lives. Letters About Literature is a statewide/nationwide reading and writing contest for any student in grades 4-12. Students are asked to write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, and explain how that author's work changed the way they thought, or viewed their world.

For the last couple of years, NCB board members have noticed a significant yearly drop in the number of Letters About Literature submissions by students from Nebraska schools. In order to be able to articulate how and why an author's words have affected their lives, students need to develop a love for, and an ongoing relationship with, literature and/or a specific author. My sense is that reading instruction in our schools has moved toward a singular focus on limited, easily testable elements of reading because of the emphasis on standardized testing. Activities that foster a love for the written word, and the worlds that books open up, are set aside, especially for students who struggle with early reading instruction.

I currently teach teachers who are finishing their master's degrees in literacy education, and I marvel at the scope of their discussions as they explore the theories of literacy and how children learn, as well as various ways to introduce young children to the fundamentals of reading. Those who teach upper grades add their insights about fostering student motivation to read, implementing comprehension strategies, and supporting the strong connection between reading and writing.

Sadly, I also share these teachers' frustration when they express how their instructional goals are limited by mandated curricula that use a one-size-fits-all approach to reading instruction or interventions. These curricula disallow teachers' discretion to use their professional expertise to provide their classes with differentiated instructional strategies and activities that will meet each student's individual literacy needs. Additionally, more than one of these teachers have been told by an administrator that they are not to read aloud to their students because reading books is an inefficient use of instructional time. Imagine being told that one of the best ways to open up the magic of books to students is a waste of instructional time!

Becoming a lifelong reader has no downside, but not having the opportunity to learn how books can enrich our lives definitely does.

(continued on page 11)

The **NCB** *News*

Fall 2016 | Volume 26 | No. 3

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Reviews originally appeared in the Nebraska Library Commission Blog #FridayReads feature (nlc.nebraska.gov/nlcblog)

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Nebraska Book Festival

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Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Advertising

The NCB News can accept up to four 1/8-page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8-page. NCB News is issued March 15, June 15 and October 15. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, centerforthebook.nebraska.gov

The NCB News is published three times each year by the Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

Subscription is free with membership.

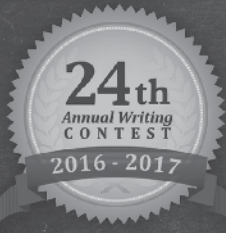
Editor: Mary Jo Ryan

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LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

A Library of Congress National Reading and Writing Promotion Program



How did an author's work
change your view of the
world or yourself?

Write a letter and tell the author.

Find out more at CenterForTheBook.nebraska.gov

Young Nebraska Readers Urged to Write Letters

Do young people still write letters? Let's find out. Young Nebraska writers are encouraged to write a letter to an author that made a difference in their lives and submit their letters to a nationwide competition. Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program. Nearly 50,000 young readers nationwide in grades four through twelve participate in this program, hundreds of them from Nebraska. The competition encourages young people to read, be inspired, and write back to the author (living or dead) who had an impact on their lives. The Nebraska winners will receive an award from the governor, be honored at a luncheon, and receive cash prizes and gift certificates. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln.

Students write personal letters to authors explaining how his or her work changed their

view of themselves or the world. They select authors from any genre, fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. Winners are chosen from three competition levels: upper elementary, middle, and secondary school. Listen to past winners (Ashley Xiques and Sydney Kohl) read their letters on NET Radio's "All about Books" podcasts at <http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/radio/all-about-books>. Or read a letter from one of this year's winners on page 3 of the Latino American Commission Spring 2016 newsletter at http://latinoac.nebraska.gov/document/NewsLetters/Newsletter_Spring16.pdf. The Nebraska competition is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, and Houchen Bindery Ltd. For more information see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. Start writing now. Letters are due December 2 (grades 9-12) and January 9 (grades 4-8).



What is the Nebraska Center for the Book?

The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. We are the people who know and love books, and who value the richness they bring to our lives. Our Nebraska Center supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. We have been an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress since 1990.

Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name/address of a friend who might be interested in NCB membership: _____

☐ \$15 Individual Membership ☐ \$25 Organizational Membership ☐ Additional Contribution

Contributions above \$15 are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Please send this form and a check to: Nebraska Center for the Book
The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120 • Lincoln, NE 68508-2023**



Review:

Reviewed by
Charles Peek,
Kearney

Threshold: A Memoir

by Faith Colburn
CreateSpace, 2012
ISBN: 1480234389

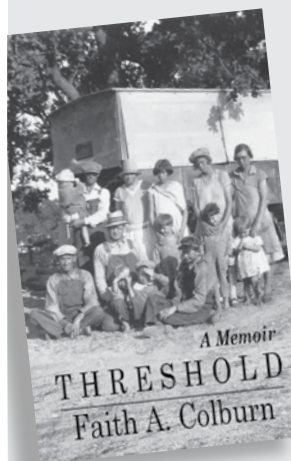
The best we can do: stagger forward until we can stand up and run” (263).

There’s too much good stuff here to get into one review! Any reader will relate to Colburn’s stories of personal crises and perseverance and lots of Great Plains readers will relate to stories of places and times we’ve shared with the generations of family that Colburn brings to life.

Some readers will remember 1928 Chevy touring cars, the kinds of entertainment small towns knew in the Great Depression and war years, what it was like to get your news from newsreels. Some have shared the experience of living “on the edge of . . . emptiness” (71), of waiting for news of deployed soldiers, of waiting to see who came home, of learning those who came home often came home changed. Many will recall the farm crisis of the ‘80s that “had torn the fabric of rural communities that were already in danger of

blowing away” (267). Maybe you even repeated the jokes about it being so dry the catfish come home with ticks. Or if you are a Cather fan, you will note particularly the episodes in Webster County.

Each of Colburn’s many careers, as well as her political activism, have helped make her a keen observer of people and their places. She often manages to see in details of the land similes for human experience—how for instance oxbows might capture the oddities, riches, and complexities any writer encounters in trying to piece back together a family story. Colburn has pieced it together from intentional “interviews” with family, collections of letters and photos, and all sorts of research that fills in the gaps. Where our family stories are concerned, we often don’t ask enough questions, don’t ask them soon enough, or don’t remember what we were told . . . but Faith Colburn did! And there are her own gems, as in her sentence, “Sometimes some serendipitous inspiration born of love and long familiarity saves a person who’s wandered into a dark prairie winter” (104). Yes, indeed, Faith! 📖



Review:

Reviewed by
Richard Miller,
Nebraska Library
Commission

The Grammar Lady: How to Mind Your Grammar in Print and in Person

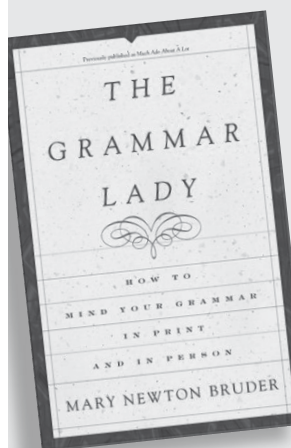
by Mary Newton Bruder
Hyperion, 2001
ISBN: 0786884355

K. I admit it. I’m a bit of a grammar snob. I know I’m opening myself up to criticism if I were to make a mistake. (Notice how I used the subjunctive—were not was?) I ask for your sympathy. I attended a high school in eastern Pennsylvania that, in English classes from grades nine through twelve, we learned grammar, spelling, diagramming sentences, and vocabulary every year. We had all this drummed into our wee heads, so we could not help but become somewhat obsessive about it. However, when I taught ninth-grade English in a high school in western Pennsylvania just four years later, there was no place in the curriculum for grammar—that’s how quickly matters had changed. I taught some grammar anyway.

If you are interested in learning more about English grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and usage—

and learning about these in a way that is perhaps more fun than the methods my classmates and I were exposed to—you couldn’t do much better than acquiring a copy of *The Grammar Lady: How to Mind Your Grammar in Print and in Person*, by Mary Newton Bruder. Starting a Website in Pittsburgh entitled, “The Grammar Lady,” the author set herself up to answer any question related to grammar. She delivers her message in amusing ways with laugh-out-loud examples of how grammatical, spelling, vocabulary, and language usage mistakes can get in the way of communicating what one really wants to get across. One of my favorite aspects of this book is the amusing examples she offers of unintentional mistakes she sees in advertisements, company memos, school assignments, etc.

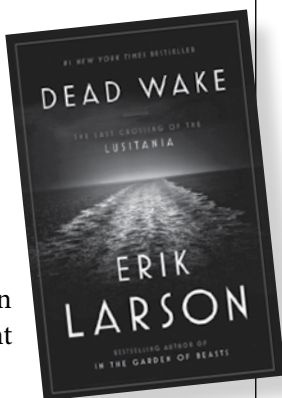
I recommend that you pick up this book if you want to learn about grammar, spelling, vocabulary, language usage, and so forth, or if you just want to be amused at the many ways that we can mess up what we are trying to say to each other. 📖



What Are You Reading?

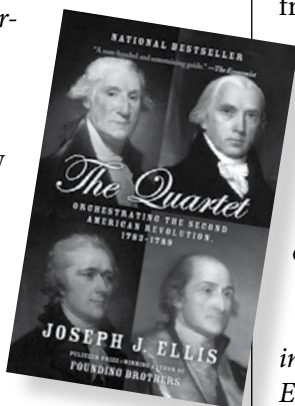
Nebraska Center for the Book board members share their thoughts about the books they are reading.

I am reading *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* (Broadway Books, 2016) by Erik Larson. Larson's story of the last voyage of the Lusitania is full of interesting historical information, with many footnotes. I am learning so much. The passengers were unsuspecting, and the captain of the Lusitania was confident that the ship could outrun German submarines. Larson's history reads like a mystery, but is full of facts and information.



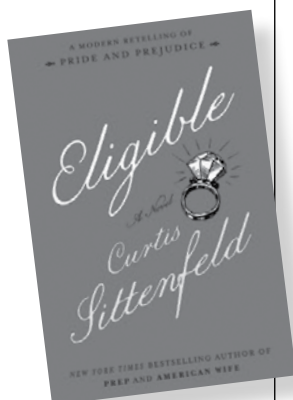
Molly Fisher

I'm reading *The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789* (Vintage, 2016) by Joseph J. Ellis. The book describes how after the revolution George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison convinced the independent confederation of states to become a nation, the United States of America.



Kate Borchman Hassebrook

I am reading *Eligible* (Random House, 2016) by Curtis Sittenfeld, a hilarious, modern version of *Pride and Prejudice*. Mrs. Bennet has a shopping problem, Jane is a yoga instructor, Lizzie writes for *Mascara* magazine and the two youngest sisters are trash talking "CrossFit" trainers. Just what a summer read should be.



Sherry Houston

I've just finished André Aciman's *Harvard Square: A Novel* (W. W. Norton, 2014), which I picked up recently at my local library "new arrivals" rack. It is set in and around Harvard from 1977-1979, during which time the narrator, a French-speaking Egyptian Jew studying for a Ph.D. in European Literature, meets and establishes a unique relationship with a similarly out-of-place Tunisian Muslim, who is driving a cab and is always in danger of being deported. The account of how these opposites attract and interact is not only thought-provoking but also extremely engaging.

Charles Johanningsmeier

I'm reading my way through the ALA Notable Books List. *Between the World and Me* (Spiegel & Grau, 2015) by Ta-Nehisi Coates strikes me as one of the most compelling books from this year's list so far.

Pat Leach

The book I'm reading right now is *What Philosophy Can Do* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2016) by Gary Gutting. The author gives readers analytical tools we can use to improve our discussions about politics, science, religion, education, and capitalism.

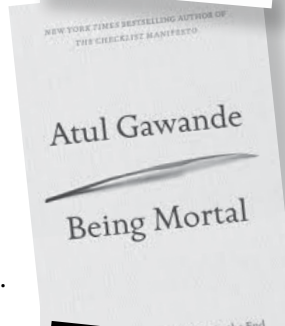
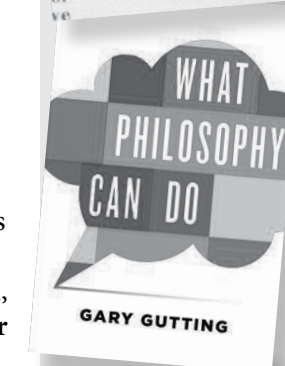
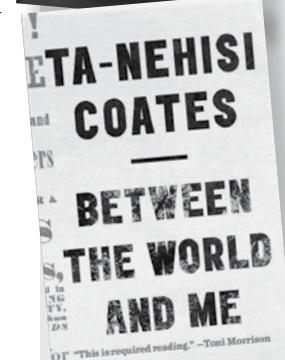
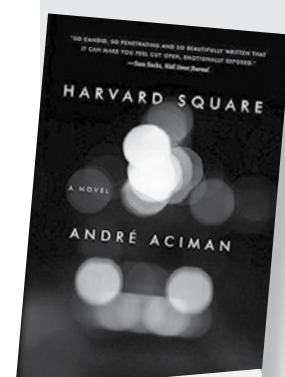
Lois Todd-Meyer

I'm currently reading Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* (Metropolitan Books, 2014), Lincoln City Libraries' One Book-One Lincoln selection. In *Being Mortal* Gawande addresses the medical triumphs that have improved the quality of life, but that have not adequately addressed the need for compassionate end-of-life care and measures.

Rod Wagner

I am re-reading *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* by Gregory Maguire (Harper, 2007). We all know Dorothy's side of the Oz story but what about the story of Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West? Master storyteller Gregory Maguire takes us through her misunderstood life and challenges our notions of good and evil. Cannot wait for him to visit Kearney on September 15!

Christine Walsh 



American Life in Poetry: Column 586



by Ted Kooser,
U.S. Poet Laureate,
2004-2006

This past autumn, pruning a big lilac bush,
I found a snakeskin that some bird had
woven into its nest. Here's a poem about another
find, from Stephen Behrendt, who lives and
teaches in Nebraska. His most recent book is
Refractions, from Shechem Press.


Snakeskin

Pruning back the old spirea bushes
that sprawled for years in summer's heat,
I bared the snake skin, a yard and a half long:
its naked empty length rippled in the streaming
wind
lifting its ghostly coils from the dead shoots
that scraped the slough from the slithering body
that shed it in that narrow, shaded space.

I paused—who wouldn't?—shears poised,
slipped off gray canvas gloves, extracted
the sere, striated casing from the brown stalks
that had held it, silent, hidden.

I coiled the paper-thin curling sheath with care,
delicately, eased it into a simple squatty box
for keeping, for care, for my daughters
to take to school, to show, to explain
how some sinuous body we've never glimpsed,
that haunts about our shrubs, our porch,
left for us this translucent, scale-scored wrapper,
this silent hint of all that moves unseen.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2014 by Stephen C. Behrendt, "Snakeskin," (*Refractions*, Shechem Press, 2014). Poem reprinted by permission of Stephen C. Behrendt and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2016 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. 

Review:

Reviewed by
Holli Duggan,
Nebraska Library
Commission

The Reckoners (series)


by Brandon Sanderson
Steelheart #1 (Ember, 2014)
ISBN: 0385743572
Mitosis: A Reckoners Story #1.5
(Delacorte Press short story eBook, 2013)
ASIN: B00GQAMAK6
Firefight #2 (Delacorte Press, 2015)
ASIN: B00V6XZVPO
Calamity #3 (Delacorte Press, 2016)
ISBN: 0385743602

Action! Adventure! Supervillains!
An unknown Calamity has caused
certain people to develop all sorts of extraor-
dinary superpowers. With their new abilities,
these Epics have also become quite corrupted
and seemingly invincible. Using their powers for
destruction and control, the world has become
fractured with people living under the Epics'



rule. The good guys are a small band of ordinary
people called the Reckoners who are fighting
back against the Epics with the help of Prof and
his fantastic technology.


The series begins with David, our scrappy (and
sometimes awkward) protagonist, in his obses-
sive quest to join the Reckoners and take down
one of the most powerful Epics, Steelheart, who
killed David's father ten years earlier. Twists and
turns move the story along very quickly as David
and the Reckoners face the war that they're about
to start.

In all of his writing, Brandon Sanderson's
world-building and magic (or superpower)
systems are incredible. He's a favorite. 



One Book for Nebraska Kids/Teens

The Nebraska Library Commission and Regional Library Systems are inviting children and teens across the state to read and discuss the same book. The 2016 **One Book for Nebraska Kids** is *Stick Dog* (HarperCollins, 2013) by Tom Watson. *Stick Dog* is the humorous tale of the leader of a group of dogs who plot to steal the hot dogs and hamburgers from a family enjoying a picnic in the park. Lots of white space and the stick-art style of drawing will appeal to readers grades 3-6. *The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die* (Square Fish, 2014) by April Henry is the 2016 **One Book for Nebraska Teens** selection. "She doesn't know who she is. She doesn't

know where she is, or why. All she knows when she comes to in a ransacked cabin is that there are two men arguing over whether or not to kill her. And that she must run." This is the riveting beginning of Henry's nail-biting thriller involving murder, identity theft, and biological warfare. See <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Youth/OBOK> for information and activities. 



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with an Essay

The youth of Nebraska are invited to participate in the tenth annual Hispanic Heritage Month State Commemoration Essay Contest. National Hispanic Heritage Month was enacted into law on August 17, 1988 observing September 15 to October 15 to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of those who can trace their ancestry to Mexico, Spain, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. For the essay competition, students are asked to write about civic engagement and answer these questions: What is the importance of civic engagement among the Latino/a community? Why is it important for Latinos/as to engage in voting, encourage others to vote, volunteer, take part in student organizations, know and contact local elected official(s), and run for public office?




When writing the essays, students are asked to consider these questions: What does civic engagement mean to you? How do you participate in civic engagement? Why is it important to contact your local elected official(s) and inform them of your support or opposition to issues? How is civic engagement relevant and important to Hispanic Heritage Month? What are the

barriers that prevent Latinos/as from becoming engaged in civic purposes, and how can Latinos/as become fully engaged?

All students currently enrolled in a Nebraska public, private, special purpose, magnet school, or home school (grades 6-12) are eligible. Each essay must include a signed entry form, available at <http://www.latinoac.nebraska.gov>. Essays must be original, typed or legibly handwritten, and double-spaced. The word length is 250-400 words for middle school students, and 500-700 words for high school students.

Scholarships, certificates, Kindle eReaders, and McDonald's gift cards will be awarded to six winners. Winning students will be recognized at the Hispanic Heritage Month State Commemoration on October 7, 2016 at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln. First place winners will be asked to read their essay at the Commemoration.

Essays and entry forms may be submitted by email to Jasel.Cantu@nebraska.gov, faxed to 402-471-4381, or mailed to Nebraska Latino American Commission, ATT: Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest, P.O. Box 94965, Lincoln, NE 68509-4965. All essays are due by Sept. 20, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. 



Plum Creek Conference Set for September 24


by Dylan Teut,
Concordia
University



The 21st annual Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Adult Conference will be held September 24 at Concordia University in Seward. Teachers, administrators, media specialists, and book lovers are invited to hear visiting authors, illustrators, and other literacy experts.

Louis Sachar will be the author luncheon speaker, presenting "From Wayside School to Fuzzy Mud." Literacy expert Harvey Daniels will speak about literature circles, Donalyn Miller ("The Book Whisperer") will talk about

nonfiction in the classroom, and Dr. Maria Walther will share information about literacy in the primary grade classrooms. Other featured authors and illustrators are listed on the conference website at <http://www.cune.edu/plumcreek>.

Registration, book sales, and author autographing begins at 7:30 a.m. The first session begins at 9:00 a.m. The last afternoon session begins at 3:30 p.m. Authors will autograph after the last session and book sales will also remain open. For more information contact Dylan Teut, dylan.teut@cune.edu, 402-643-7483. 

Cather Spring Conference Held in Red Cloud

by Chuck
Johanningsmeier,
University of
Nebraska at Omaha

A long line forms for Karen Gettert Shoemaker, author of The Meaning of Names, to sign copies of her book at the Red Cloud Opera House.

Each year the Willa Cather Foundation hosts a spring conference in Red Cloud during the first weekend of June, and this year its theme was "'Both Bitter and Sweet:' Cather, Literature, and the Great War." One hundred and forty-five people came from seventeen states and three countries to attend a wide variety of events.

On the opening day of the conference, panels of scholars addressed such topics as "Women at War and Peace: Nebraska Women and the Home Front During and After World War I;" "Cather, Pittsburgh, and the Great War;" "War's a Farm-

ers' Game: *My Ántonia*, Agriculture, and Tanks;" and "Willa Cather's Shifting Perspectives on the Great War." In the evening, attendees heard a keynote lecture by Dr. Pearl James of the University of Kentucky on "The New Death: Willa Cather and World War I."


Kicking off Friday's schedule was an excellent and enthralling presentation by Karen Gettert Shoemaker, whose novel *The Meaning of Names* is the Nebraska Center for the Book's One Book One Nebraska selection for 2016. For the rest of the conference, attendees could hear plenary talks, learn the dances and music of World War I, dine on the grounds of the Starke Round Barn, hike on the Willa Cather Prairie, and view the excellent exhibition of war-related artifacts in the Red Cloud Opera House. At Saturday night's closing banquet, diners were treated to a fascinating and entertaining concert of World War I-era songs performed by Sarah Young, a professor of English at Benedictine College who is also a widely-respected soprano, who has sung with a number of opera and theater companies. As is always the case, all those who attended the conference came away with a greater appreciation of Willa Cather's works and the ways she engaged with the issues important to those of her time—and ours. 



Photo courtesy of Barb Kudrna



More New Teen Books


The Teen Advisory Board at Omaha Public Library's Millard Branch library presented the first ever "International Day" in June, with an attendance of 143. Posters representing international countries with graphics and information on each country were made in advance and posted around the library. In addition, each of the students answered questions about their country and provided food that represented that country. New teen books that I've recently read include:

No Summit out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits (Simon & Schuster, 2015) by Jordan Romero. Jordan was only nine years old when he decided that he was going to climb the seven summits (including Mount Everest), the highest mountains on each of the seven continents.

Grandmaster: A Novel (Square Fish, 2015) by David Klass. Daniel joins a chess club and is

shocked to find out that his father is a grandmaster when he and his father are invited to a prestigious chess tournament.

The Trials of Apollo, Book 1: The Hidden Oracle (Disney-Hyperion, 2016) by Rick Riordan. Apollo lands in a dumpster on the earth and has to learn to live without his powers.

The Long Game: A Fixer Novel (Bloomsbury USA, 2016) by Jennifer Lynn Barnes. The president of the United States is shot and a terrorist is on the loose and ready to strike at any moment. Can Tess make a difference in the midst of chaos? 



by Paul Christopherson,
Omaha Public Library


Mother and "Desiderata"

For our move to the West Coast I organized and tidied up our paper footprint into about seventy 26-inch-long file boxes of personal, professional, and research papers. We left another thirty feet (or so) at the end of the driveway for the trash man or shredder. There was a trove of papers from grandparents, parents, cousins, and our two sons.

Mother and I did not collect, we just didn't throw away. We preserved what we loved. We have boxes of wedding, birthday, New Year, and anniversary cards; family papers and poetry manuscripts going back to the 1950s; letters, including our 1965-67 Navy and 1970-74 London and South Africa letters; and our children's school records, art work, birthday and Valentine cards, Hebrew school and Bar Mitzvah activities, sports activities (including a box of trophies), letters from camp, and their weddings to Erika and Marianna. These are not bank, insurance, or medical records; they are personal and sentimental papers tracing life's path, emotions, and remembrance.

Mother sent me clippings she thought would interest me. As early as December 1971 she sent a *Los Angeles Times* advertisement, "Rhodesia, Land of Sunshine and Opportunity, Begin again!"

It reached out to dissatisfied Brits and Americans—English speakers seeking employment or retirement. Mother kept things that held meaning for her. She had all the Mother's Day cards that Judy and Bill and Karen and I sent her. She had a folder of her adult education certificates. She kept travel literature from Canada, Holland, Mexico, and Turkey—as well as incoming mail and carbon copies and photocopies of outgoing mail. On the playbill for "Breaking the Code" performed in 1989 by the South Coast Repertory, she wrote, "All's well here. Survived the Earth quake and its aftermath. Love, Mom. Look out for this, if it ever comes your way." We did not see the play but did see "The Imitation Game" (2014) starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Of "Reunion," a 1989 film starring Jason Robards based on a 1971 novel by Fred Uhlman with the screenplay by Harold Pinter, she wrote revealingly, "Look out for this—It depicts the atmosphere of the pre-holocaust era which I grew up in. I could really identify!"

Karen and I will observe mother's yahrzeit at our new Richmond home and share the contents of her boxes, drinking coffee, wine, maybe Liebfraumilch or Green Hungarian, or cocktails. 

by Oliver B. Pollak,
Omaha



Treasures of the Heritage Room

by Erin Willis,
Lincoln City
Libraries

Answer: The Nebraska author who created and edited *Trivia Unlimited* magazine from 1978-1984.

Question: Who is Steve Tamerius?

Anyone who watches “Jeopardy!” can tell you that the popular quiz show features a disproportionate number of questions related to Nebraska; this owing to the fact that four of the show’s top producers and writers are from Nebraska. Steve Tamerius, originally from Fairbury, is in his twenty-ninth season with “Jeopardy!” and has received ten Emmys and two WGA

Awards for writing. He landed his job as a television writer after a six-year stint as editor of *Trivia Unlimited*, the first national magazine devoted exclusively to trivia.


Tamerius created the United States Trivia Association and its publication, *Trivia Unlimited*, with three other Lincoln businessmen in 1978.

Their belief that trivia is “American Folklore to the nth degree” and their desire to create a national forum for trivia buffs inspired the creation of the fifteen-page monthly magazine. Each of the partners had an area of expertise, which they honed

by consuming and recording information from TV shows, movies, newspapers, records, and documents. The sum of this research, supplemented by reader input, became the substance of *Trivia Unlimited*.

The magazine thematically provides its readers with facts, fallacies, questions, and answers on subjects both unimportant and inconsequential. Tamerius noted that “trivia is being made every day,” and he was committed to showcasing the broad areas of trivia interest. The collective and inexhaustible knowledge of curious and interesting facts supported the popularity and expansion of *Trivia Unlimited* through its final issue in 1984. The magazine boasted “thousands and thousands” of subscribers in all fifty states and worldwide. Most of these magazines are now collectors’ items and those in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors are part of a rare collection in which the magazines are publicly available.


Did you know that Johnny Carson’s first television appearance was on the educational TV channel in Lincoln in 1948? If you want to know what part he played, visit the Heritage Room and ask for the September 1980 issue of *Trivia Unlimited*!

Ed. Note: the *NCB News* will run an article in each upcoming edition featuring an item from the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Lincoln City Libraries, <http://lincolnlibraries.org/heritage-room-of-nebraska-authors>. 

Take The Meaning of Names Journey

Now Nebraska travelers can focus on Nebraska stories on-the-go. A new tool helps people use their phones to explore and learn more about Nebraska’s literary heritage.

The Nebraska Literary Tour app (<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/program/nebraska-literary-tour/>) from Humanities Nebraska encourages us to explore Nebraska literature in person. One of

these iconic Nebraska road trips is based on *The Meaning of Names* by Karen Gettert Shoemaker (the 2016 One Book One Nebraska). Check out <http://www.netnebraska.org/interactive-multimedia/other/net-news-touring-nebraskas-literary-heritage> on NET radio for more information on using the phone app, and use it in your travels around Nebraska. 

“One Author Kearney” Presents Gregory Maguire and Gail Tsukiyama

*D*reams do come true!

One Author Kearney has grown from the dream of several staff members to bring a nationally noted author to Kearney on an annual basis. As with all big dreams, we could not do it alone so the Kearney Public Library Foundation was approached for funding and other collaborative support. They said “yes” and the rest, as they say, is history. One Author Kearney will celebrate its third year and proudly presents guest authors Gregory Maguire, author of *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* (Harper, 2007) and Gail Tsukiyama, *The Samurai’s Garden: A Novel* (St. Martin’s Griffin, 1996) on September 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the World Theatre. Free tickets are required and are available through the Kearney Public Library.

Gregory Maguire is the author of eight adult novels, including *Wicked*, which inspired the blockbuster Broadway musical. He has written two dozen children’s books, essays, criticism, and he has performed original work on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” and Public Radio International’s “Selected Shorts.” He was a cofounder and, for twenty-five years, codirector of Children’s Literature New England, Inc., a nonprofit aimed at drawing attention to the significance of literature in the lives of children. Maguire has lectured on art, literature, and culture both at home and abroad. He lives with his family near Boston, MA.


“If I know my friends and neighbors and even my family members at all well, it is largely because I have practiced knowing the varieties of human behavior and experience through a reliable sample of ten thousand case histories,

most of them administered through the aegis of the fiction room in the public library.”—Gregory Maguire

Gail Tsukiyama will return to Kearney for a third year. She is an award-winning novelist and poet, born in San Francisco. This year she will speak as the ambassador for Writers for Water-bridge Outreach: Books + Water, an organization of authors who strive to give children in developing communities hope for the future by nourishing their minds and bodies with books and water. She is the author of seven novels; recipient of the Academy of American Poets Award and the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award for Literary Excellence; and has taught at San Francisco State University, University of California Berkeley, and Mills College. Her latest novel is *A Hundred Flowers: A Novel* (St. Martin’s Griffin, 2013). Gail was the inaugural guest author in 2014 and has been instrumental in helping grow this event through collaboration with Writers for WaterBridge Outreach.

“Ever since I was young I believed that reading a book was like holding an entire world in your hands. Books are our teachers, our companions, our saviors. We have so much to learn about ourselves and the world we live in, and how lucky we are that the simple act of reading has the power to educate and illuminate.”—Gail Tsukiyama

Our dream keeps growing and getting better each year. So mark your calendars and join us in Kearney for a wonderful evening with Gregory Maguire and Gail Tsukiyama. Book sales and a signing will follow the presentations.

P.S. We hope to announce our 2017 author at the September event! 

by Christine Walsh,
Kearney Public
Library



Gregory Maguire

Photo courtesy of Andy Newman



Gail Tsukiyama

Photo courtesy of Kevin Horan

How Can We Encourage Lifelong Readers? (continued from page 2)

I encourage all of us who love books to make a point to encourage those teachers who work hard to instill a love of reading in their students. They are out there, and will appreciate your support. If you have the time and the inclination, volunteer to read to children at your local school. “Adopt” a struggling reader, and do what you can to bring

him/her into our community of the book. We cannot afford to allow our young people to miss out on the critical thinking opportunities that reading fosters, or to miss out on reading good books.

Ed. Note: See Letters About Literature article on Page 3 



The NCB News



**THE NEBRASKA
CENTER FOR
THE BOOK**

*an affiliate of
the Library of Congress*

c/o Nebraska Library Commission
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Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023
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**Celebrate Nebraska Books in Lincoln: October 29, 2016
Annual Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Nebraska History Museum**
<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html>

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Calendar of Events:



View the complete
Nebraska Literary
Calendar at
[centerforthebook.
nebraska.gov/
get_involved/calendar.
html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/get_involved/calendar.html)

Library Card Sign-up Month.....September..... Nationwide
Contact: <http://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/card>

Write on the River, with Karen Gettert Shoemaker and Amy Hassinger.....September 8-12..... Brownville
Contact: 402-489-0859, larksongwritersplace@gmail.com,
<http://www.larksongwritersplace.com/Larksong/Welcome.html>

Dust Covered Dreams, with Barbara Eymann Mohrman.....September 14..... Cozad
Contact: Wilson Public Library, 308-784-2019, wpublib@cozadtel.net,
<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speaker-events/dust-covered-dreams-9/>

One Author Kearney, featuring Gregory Maguire and Gail Tsukiyama.....September 15..... Kearney
Contact: Kearney Public Library, cwalsh@kearneygov.org

Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Adult Conference.....September 24..... Seward
Contact: 402-643-7483, Dylan.Teut@cune.edu,
<http://www.cune.edu/about/conferences-and-camps/plumcreek/>

Neihardt Beer and Limerick Festival.....September 24..... Bancroft
Contact: 402-648-3388, 888-777-4667, neihardt@gpcom.net, www.neihardtcenter.org

Banned Books Week.....September 25-October 1..... Nationwide
Contact: <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/>

21st Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities:
Sonia Nazario "Enrique's Journey & America's Immigration Dilemma".....September 27..... Lincoln
Contact: 402-474-2131, Erika@humanitiesnebraska.org,
<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/program/governors-lecture/>

Teen Read Week: Turn Dreams into Reality.....October 9-15..... Nationwide
Contact: <http://teenreadweek.ning.com>

Nebraska Writers Guild Fall Conference.....October 14-15..... Aurora
Contact: <http://www.nebraskawriters.org/content/fall-conference>

Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association Conference...October 19-21..... Omaha
Contact: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/page/Neplib2016>,
NLAexecutivedirector@gmail.com

NE Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books.....October 29..... Lincoln
Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m.
Contact: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665,
<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov>, www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook